



Parent Liaison News

Newsletter #5. I would appreciate some feedback if this is helpful to you or what other kinds of information you would find useful. If you want to receive this electronically please let me know. It is my

intent that you may find the following information of interest and perhaps useful for discussion during Parent Advisory Committee meetings. Please copy and share!

Regional PAC's find creative ways to share information

I have heard from some people about methods that PAC's use to communicate with each other. Do you have any information for me to share with others? Does your PAC have its own web page? How do the PAC's in your area communicate?

Region II uses: www.hisd.k12.mi.us/region2

Macomb has a web site that they keep updated with current events. Right now it is the rules. This is also information about their PAC and contact page. See this site at: (no www needed) ameritech.net/users/cabreenie/indexf.htm

www.websiteparent.com

This site is being monitored by Shari Krishnan from the Oakland PAC. She is trying to keep useful web information sites here.

CEC in 2002

I have volunteered to head the development of the Parent and Family Information strand for the next CEC (Council for Exceptional Children) Conference. Do you have any ideas for presentations? What topics would you like to see there? Let me know! I need ideas fairly much in place by September, 2001!

Proposed Rules Meetings with PAC's

This Liaison arranged three meetings regarding the proposed rules for special education with PAC Chairpersons and other interested parents throughout the state. I am sorry that there was short notice for these meetings but the original timeline was short for response. A staff person from our Policy, Planning and Compliance gave an overview of the proposed changes while I addressed some hints on how to help people understand about the process and how to make comments.

Discussions around changes were very helpful to all attending.

I have also met with several PAC's individually. I hope you found this helpful. Since the time for public comment has been extended until September 30, 2001, I will try to arrange other meetings with more notice.

Harvard Project Aims to Strengthen Teacher-Parent Bonds

Schools of education have a new resource to make parent and community involvement a stronger piece of their teacher-training programs. The Harvard Family Research Project has formed a network of teacher-educators dedicated to making the nation's future teachers better at working with families and communities.

The new Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE) will work to make parent involvement materials and curricula more widely available to schools of education. The network will also serve as a clearinghouse for research and information on the subject.

While the network primarily targets education professors and professional development experts, it is open to anyone and membership is free.

The Harvard network published an “e-newsletter” that highlights efforts to improve teacher training related to parents involvement. More information can be found on the Harvard Family Research Project’s Web site at <http://gseweb.harvard.edu/~hfrp>

The article asks that we pass on this information to teachers that we know.

Taken in part from Education Week, November 29, 2000 with permission.

Oral History Project

Three years in the making, the Millennium Oral History Project is nearly ready to unveil its product - a publication called, “Proud Voices: An Oral History of the Disability Rights Movement in Michigan (1960-1980)”. This history chronicles the contributions of the early leaders in the struggle for access, key legislation, and the formation of some CIL’s (Centers for Independent Living). “Proud Voices” contains excerpts from nearly 20 recorded interviews with the early movement’s leaders. Tapes and transcripts generated from this project will be housed in the Bently Historical Library in Ann Arbor.

Presentations will be at the following sites:

May 15th will be the first presentation in Marquette in collaboration with the Superior Alliance for Independent Living. No time given.

May 22 from 7-9pm will be hosted by the Bentley Historical Library at UofM.

June 6 from 4-6pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church in East Lansing.

May 24th from 4-6pm at Schuler Books in Grand Rapids.

A location in Detroit is yet to be arranged. If interested contact a Center

for Independent Living in your area for more information.

WEB Sites of Interest

The Arc Michigan has purchased a software program “State Capitol Wiz” that will allow persons with disabilities, advocates, family members, and professionals to communicate more efficiently with the Governor and the State Legislature. Coupled with the new Arc US Legislative Action Center, communication with state and federal officials has never been easier. Connect to www.arc.mi.org Then click on the TAKE ACTION icon and you are there!

www.causeonline.org

CAUSE has updated their web page. Take a look at the new and exciting site they have. There is lots of information here.

Have you visited the MDE-OSE/EIS web site lately? We keep it updated and have lots of information that you may find helpful. We have lots of links to other sites also.

www.mde.state.mi.us/off/sped/

www.specialchild.com

For parents and care givers of children with special needs. Special Child is provided by the Resource Foundation for Children with Challenges (RFCC), a nonprofit charity organization. The site’s mission statement is to provide educational resources and emotional support to parents and care givers of children, adolescents, and young adults with disabilities.

www.michiganlearning.org

MI Learning magazine – A Parent Guide to Maximize Our Kids Education

www.lsi.ukans.edu/beach/beachhp.htm

If you would like to know more about research on transition to adult life and disability, contact the Beach Center on Families and Disability. They have fact sheets, research briefs and publications.

www.Enablingdevices.com

Enabling Devices, a division of Toys for Special Children, Inc., sells adaptive toys and switches. Reach the company at 800-832-8697 or on the web.

www.specialedlaw.net

SpecialEdLaw.net is an internet resource for parents, attorneys, teachers, and others on matters relating to Special Education Law and legal issues.

Wrightslaw Special Education Advocate Newsletter is a free online newsletter published when time permits and there is news to share. The site contains hundreds of files, articles, legal decisions, newsletters, law and regulations, news and more. For information about new uploads and other news, go to the Newsroom at:

www.wrightslaw.com

Their law library is at

www.wrightslaw.com/main-lawlibrary.htm

In addition to mediation services, the Michigan Special Education Mediation Program (MSEMP) offers interested parties the option of requesting a trained mediator to be present in the role of facilitator during an IEP. For more information, contact Michigan Special Education Mediation Program, SCAO, 309 N. Washington Square, P.O. Box 30048, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone: 517.373.4839. Web address:

www.supremecourt.state.mi.us/programs.htm

New NICHCY Publications

Questions and Answers about IDEA (First copy free)

Interventions for Chronic Behavior Problems (\$2.00)

Disability Awareness Resources 2000 (\$2.00)

Questions Often Asked by Parents About Special Education Services. Call NICHCY for a free Publications Catalog or visit on the web.

1-800-695-0285

www.nichy.org

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Trust Fund

The Trust Fund for Children with Special Needs recognizes the value of conferences related to children's special health care. Scholarships are available to help Michigan parents attend a conference related to the diagnosis, condition or treatment of their child with special needs.

To apply, you need to write a letter of request and include the conference, name, date, location, and brochure. Explain your family's need for the conference information and/or its value, and propose a budget.

Mail the information to MDCH/CSHCS/PPP, 1200 Sixth Street, Suite 316, Detroit, MI 48226-2493.

Help is available to put together a conference scholarship request at the CSHCS office at local health departments or on the CSHCS Family Phone Line, 1-800-359-3722.

Information

Are you all on the mailing list for the CEN Newsline? This is a free special education newsletter for parents and teachers. It contains several articles that might be of interest to families in your area. Contact: CEN Newsline, Eaton ISD, 1790 E. Packard Highway, Charlotte, MI 48813 Phone: (800) 593-9146, extension #4

They can be accessed on the web
tbullock@eaton.k12.mi.us

Are you receiving a new publication titled, "Investing In Our Students"? This is published nine times a year by the Awareness and Dissemination hub (Hub 2) of the Michigan State Improvement Plan (SIP). The SIP welcomes and encourages readers to share information that can be used to enhance investing in our students and improve educational opportunities for ALL students. To start receiving, contact: jrogers@eaton.k12.mi.us or phone (800) 593-9146, extension #16

Conference Dates and Information

Remember the Growth for Families Conference will be held October 19-20 at the Troy Marriott Hotel. This is a conference for families of children of special needs. It is a terrific conference for families – even if you have never attended a conference before. Come and meet other families. There are some great speakers that have committed to this conference. For further information as it becomes available, phone (248)209-2007

Comments from the Parent Liaison

If you have a PAC Newsletter, do you let families know how to access their PAC, Local Directors, Parent Handbooks, Procedural Safeguard information, support/advocacy groups, the revised Michigan Administrative Rules, CEN, your ISD web site information, and the MDE web site information. Where do families access IDEA and other legal information if they need to? Let's be a part of keeping our families and teachers as informed as we can. Often, we feel that it has been said so many times that everyone knows where to access information. People often do not

remember or care to know how to access information until they need it and then do not know or understand how.

If your PAC has a newsletter or if you have some back copies on hand, please send them to me and ask that I get added to your mailing list. I get contacted from time to time for examples of newsletters and would really like to have some. I know that several PACs do newsletters and really would like to have the opportunity to promote the hard work that you do in producing your newsletters. Thank you!

If you have handbooks that have been updated to IDEA and the Regulations would you please send me a copy. I am asked for examples of handbooks at times. I have a couple but would like to have yours to hand out also. Just one or two copies would be fine – I don't have that large of an office and can copy here if needed.

As always, I am happy to hear from you. Let me know how your PAC is doing. Any questions? I will try to find the answer!

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This information is provided as a resource to parents who are active in Parent Advisory Committees and other school-based activities. Reference to web-sites, publications and other sources of information does not infer endorsement by the Michigan Department of Education.